

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Executive Registry

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Honorable George H. Mahon, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

13 AUG 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Charles Snodgrass, of the Defense Subcommittee staff, has been in touch with us concerning the Subcommittee's action which included in the Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1977, a separate appropriation for the Intelligence Community Staff, contained in Title 8 of the bill. As you know, I am in favor of ensuring the independence of the Intelligence Community Staff and have taken steps to relocate that Staff in quarters apart from the Headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency. You may recall at the time the House Report was issued, I affirmed to you my desire that the Intelligence Community Staff indeed not be viewed as a captive of the Central Intelligence Agency, but asked that you give us time to assess how we can preserve the independence of the Staff, yet do so in an administrative, legal and efficient way. I do have serious reservations about the establishment of a separate appropriation for the Intelligence Community Staff and making it so independent from the other elements of the Intelligence Community that it could not rely on their support for the efficient, economical, and secure transaction of the Intelligence Community Staff's functions.

In addition, as you probably are aware, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, chaired by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, has established a subcommittee to look into the charters of the various intelligence organizations. In my conversations with Chairman Inouye and other members of the Committee, as well as members of the Subcommittee on Charters, it is my impression that they propose to thoroughly study the operation of the Intelligence Community between now and the end of the 94th Congress and to continue this study when the 95th Congress convenes. I will, of course, make the same recommendations to the Senate Committee that I have made to your Subcommittee and to the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In addition, we will continue to study this matter carefully in an effort to be as prepared as possible to meet the various contingency plans that may be proposed. I believe,

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however, that it would be premature for me to take any final actions of a permanent nature relative to organizational mechanisms pertaining to the Intelligence Community Staff until the Senate Select Committee and the equivalent body in the House of Representatives have had an opportunity to focus on this area of the U.S. intelligence structure.

I can assure you, however, that it is my intention as Director of Central Intelligence and as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence to insure that the Intelligence Community Staff will operate freely and independently, without interference from or direction by, other elements of the Intelligence Community. It is my view that establishing a separate and open appropriation for the Intelligence Community Staff does not in and of itself guarantee the independence that your Subcommittee and I wish to achieve. I believe that the establishment of arbitrary restrictions on the logistical and other support available to the Intelligence Community Staff would have the effect of impeding rather than facilitating its operations.

I trust that the above will be helpful to the Committee in considering this matter in the FY 1978 budget.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush
Director

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